

1	2	3
3.	Improvement of NH-2 from Barwa Adda (km. 398.75) to Barakar (km 441.44) in Bihar (4 laning of existing two lanes for 42 km.)	150.67
4.	Improvement on NH-9 from Nandigama (km 217.0) to Vijayawada (km. 265.0) in Andhra Pradesh (strengthening of existing 2 lanes for 35 km; 4 laning of existing 2 lanes for 13 km)	67.90
5.	Improvement of NH-5 from Vijayawada (km 3.4) to Eluru (km 75.0) in Andhra Pradesh (strengthening of existing 2 lanes for 47 km; 4 laning of existing 2 lanes for 9.6 km. and 18 km. new formation of 2 lanes)	171.60

#### **Clearance to Mumbai-Pune Express-way**

725. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Mumbai-Pune Express-way scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the clearance to this scheme involves the violation of environmental regulations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have also given clearance to Ghat Section of this Highway; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The revised proposal as cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests envisages linking the new expressway with the Ghat section of the existing National Highway NH-4 from Adoshi. The Ghat section of NH-4 will be widened from four to six lanes without acquiring any additional land.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The State Government modified the project proposal by excluding the Ghat section and hence there is at present no proposal before the Ministry regarding the Ghat section.

[English]

#### **Poor Telecommunication Services**

726. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor and inadequate telecommunication services in rural areas in Orissa particularly in Jagatsinghpur district;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) the target fixed for modernisation and expansion of telecommunication network in Orissa during the Eight Five Year Plan.

(d) whether the target has been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the programmes drawn up for the expansion and modernisation of telecommunication network in the State in Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The telecommunication services in rural areas in the State of Orissa particularly in Jagatsinghpur district are satisfactory in general.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) the targets and achievements during the Eighth Five Year plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Targets have been achieved in most of the cases. In case of village public telephones the target could not be achieved.

(e) Delay in supply of the equipment from the manufacturers.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) Some of the major programmes planned for the expansion and modernisation of telecommunication network in the State during Ninth Five Year Plan are as follows:

- (i) To provide telephones on demand;
- (ii) To provide telephone facility in all the villages by the end of 9th Five Year plan.
- (iii) To provide STD facility to all the remaining exchanges.
- (iv) To replace life expired and technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.
- (v) To computerise trunk services at SSA Head Qrs.
- (vi) Introduction of new technologies like wireless in local loop, Optical Fiber Technologies, etc. in the local network.
- (vii) Introduction of better and reliable technologies for providing village telephones.
- (viii) To have reliable transmission media for all exchanges.
- (ix) Computerised billing and accounting in all divisions.
- (x) Modernisation of fault repair services.
- (xi) Computerise directory enquiry services in all SSAs.
- (xii) To give priority for Telecom facilities in sensitive areas, Tribal and Hilly areas and Industrial growth centres.

#### Statement

*Target/Achievements During Eighth Five Year Plan (92-97)*

	Target	Achievement
1. Switching Capacity	1,26,365	1,49,311
2. Direct Exchange Lines	1,02,550	1,18,518
3. Village Public Telephone	18,300	13,007
4. STD Stations	478	498

[Translation]

#### Lifting of Ban on Purchase of Arms from Bofors

727. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

KUMARI UMABHARATI:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban imposed on the purchase of arms manufactured by Swedish company A.B. Bofors;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons compelling the Government to reconsider the ban imposed on the purchase from above company during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government have also imported spare parts from the said company during the past few years; and

(e) if so, the year-wise amount spent on the import of spare parts?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The embargo on M/s Bofors continues to be in force.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

#### Promotion of Tourism in Maharashtra

728. SHRI KACHARU BHARU RAUT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of the total amount allocated to Maharashtra for promotion of tourism during the Eight Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of the amount spent out of the said amount during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism do not earmark or allocate fund for assistance to different states. However, funds are given on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines and merit's of each case. The year-wise amount sanctioned and released by the Deptt. of Tourism during the Eighth Five Year Plan for various projects in Maharashtra are given below.

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs.in lakhs)	Amount released
1992-93	201.30	94.09
1993-94	309.11	132.10
1994-95	273.46	119.23
1995-96	63.75	17.89
1996-97	187.69	84.00

The releases are made on the basis of progress of implementation of the projects.